

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for visual copyright protection comprising the steps of:
 - (a) inputting light from a light source;
 - (b) selecting a disruptive light modulating pattern based upon a criterion, said criterion being how said pattern is perceived by an IRD and a human differently;
 - (c) modulating a light array, having at least one element, using said disruptive light modulating pattern;
 - (d) projecting said light onto said light array producing a modulated light beam; and
 - (e) outputting said modulated light beam.
2. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1 wherein said light array comprises a multitude of light arrays.
3. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1 wherein said criterion further includes selecting said pattern for the purpose of inserting a watermark.

4. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, wherein said criterion further includes selecting said pattern for the purpose of inserting a human perceptible image.

5. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, wherein said criterion further includes selecting said pattern for the purpose of inserting a non-human perceptible image.

6. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, wherein said criterion further includes selecting said pattern for the purpose of creating disruption effects.

7. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 6, wherein said criterion further includes selecting said pattern for the purpose of creating disruption effects containing motion.

8. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, further including the step of projecting said modulated light beam onto a surface.

9. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 8, wherein said surface is an image bearing surface.

10. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 8, wherein said modulated light beam is focused near said surface.

11. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 8, wherein said surface is being utilized by a projector.

12. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 8, wherein said modulated light beam illuminates an area.

13. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, wherein said disruptive light modulating patterns can modulate each element differently.

14. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, further including the step of splitting said light.

15. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, further including the step of inputting said criterion from an external source.

16. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, further including the step of inputting said disruptive light modulating pattern from an external source.

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17. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, wherein said disruptive light modulating pattern is selected from a set of predetermined disruptive light modulating patterns.

18. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, wherein said disruptive light modulating pattern interlaces disruptive content with nondisruptive content, said disruptive content being interlaced at a rate ^{too fast} ~~too fast~~ for a human to perceive.

19. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, wherein said disruptive light modulating pattern is a multitude of disruptive light modulating patterns.

20. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 19, wherein each of said multitude of disruptive light modulating patterns modulates at least one of said elements.

21. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 20, wherein each of said multitude of disruptive light modulating patterns modulates at least one of said elements in an array of elements to generate a disruptive effect.



22. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, further including the steps of:
 - (a) receiving an input image; and
 - (b) combining said input image with said disruptive light modulating pattern.
23. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, wherein said disruptive light modulating pattern is a multitude of sequenced disruptive light modulating patterns.
24. A method for visual copyright protection according to claim 1, wherein said criterion is based upon a dynamic analysis of source content.
25. An apparatus for visual copyright protection comprising:
 - (a) a light source;
 - (b) a light array;
 - (c) a light array controller; and
 - (d) a disruption processor.
26. The apparatus according to claim 25, further including input content.
27. The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said input content is analog data.

28. The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said input content is digital data.

29. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said disruption processor further includes disruption data.

30. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said disruption processor operates on at least one image element.

31. The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein at least one of said image elements is a pixel.

32. The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein at least one of said image elements is a group of pixels.

33. The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein at least one of said image elements is an image frame.

34. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said disruption processor is a primary disruption processor and said primary disruption processor further includes a multitude of supporting disruption processors.

35. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said light array has a characteristic from the group consisting of:

- (a) reflective; and
- (b) translucent.

36. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said light array is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a liquid crystal display;
- (b) MEMS DMD;
- (c) I-DLA;
- (d) a cathode ray tube; and
- (e) a retinal display.

37. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said disruption processor introduces a disruption watermark component.

38. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said disruption processor introduces a disruption frequency component.

39. The apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said disruption frequency component is a multitude of disruption frequency components.

40. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said disruption processor generates at least one disruption effect selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a visible disruption effect;
- (b) IRD command signals;
- (c) an autofocus disruptive effect;
- (d) moving disruption effects;
- (e) an exposure disruptive effect; and
- (f) Moiré disruptive effects.

41. The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said disruption effect is a multitude of said disruption effects.

42. The apparatus according to claim 41, wherein said multitude of disruption effects are varied temporally.

43. The apparatus according to claim 41, wherein said multitude of disruption effects are varied spatially.

44. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said disruption processor inserts new disruptive content.

45. The apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said new disruptive content includes at least one pattern selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a dark color;
- (b) a random pattern;
- (c) a logo;
- (d) a copyright notice;
- (e) a spot;
- (f) geometric shape; and
- (g) characters.

46. The apparatus according to claim 25, further including a security interlock.